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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/929,765	08/14/2001	Chih Chin Liao	56370	9374
21874	7590	10/06/2004	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP			WARREN, MATTHEW E	
P.O. BOX 55874			ART UNIT	
BOSTON, MA 02205			PAPER NUMBER	

2815

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/929,765

Applicant(s)

LIAO, CHIH CHIN

Examiner

Matthew E Warren

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 8, 11 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 8, 11 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the Arguments filed on July 23, 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicant's Prior Art Figures 3 and 4 (APAF) in view of Takahama (JP 6-157238).

In re claim 6, the APAF 3 and 4 shows a BGA package a substrate 10 having a front and back side, a chip 20 mounted on the front side of the substrate, the chip having an array of bond pads 30B, an array of solder balls 40A on the back side of the substrate, and an array of bond fingers 60B beside the chip and electrically connected to the bond pads of that chip. An array of electrically conductive vias (72 & 74) penetrate from the front to the back side of the substrate and connect to the solder balls. The package also comprises a plurality of continuous electrically-conductive traces (70A-70D) for connecting a first subgroup of the bond fingers to corresponding ones of the vias. The continuous traces including at least one trace interposed between a second subgroup of the bond fingers and their corresponding vias. The APAF shows all of the elements of the claims except the electrically conductive bridge. Takahama shows (fig. 3 and abstract) shows a semiconductor device having traces (3, 4, and 5)

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and a conductive bridge (8) in the form of a bond wire spanning in an overhead manner across the traces. The bond wire is free of the interposing traces and has an unfilled gap between the wire and traces. With this configuration, the density of wiring can be increased ultimately increasing the level of integration of the device. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connections of the APAF by forming conductive bridges spanning over traces as taught by Takahama to increase the wiring density and ultimately improve the integration of the semiconductor device.

In re the limitations concerning the bonding wire being mounted through wire-bonding technology, a "product by process" claim is directed to the product per se, no matter how actually made, In re Hirao, **190 USPQ 15 at 17**(footnote 3). See also in re Brown, **173 USPQ 685**; In re Luck, **177 USPQ 523**; In re Fessmann, **180 USPQ 324**; In re Avery, **186 USPQ 116** in re Wertheim, **191 USPQ 90 (209 USPQ 254** does not deal with this issue); and In re Marosi et al, **218 USPQ 289** final product per se which must be determined in a "product by, all of" claim, and not the patentability of the process, and that an old or obvious product, whether claimed in "product by process" claims or not. Note that Applicant has the burden of proof in such cases, as the above case law makes clear. "Even though product-by- process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based upon the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the

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claim is unpatentable even though the prior product is made by a different process.” In re Thorpe, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985)(citations omitted).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art Figures 3 and 4 (APAF) in view of Takahama (JP 6-157238) as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Abrams (US 3,560,256).

In re claim 8, the APAF and Takahama show all of the elements of the claims except the bond wire made of gold. Abrams discloses a bridge/crossover that is made of gold wires or includes a resistor (col. 4, lines 3-6, & 25-31) and is free of interference with the electrically conductive trace due to the insulating material (27) between the bridge and traces. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the APAF and Takahama by employing gold conductive bridge structures that cross over circuit traces as taught by Abrams to suitably increase the packing density of the circuit.

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicant's Prior Art Figures 3 and 4 (APAF) in view of Takahama (JP 6-157238) and Abrams (US 3,560,256)

In re claims 11 and 13, the APAF 3 and 4 shows a BGA package a substrate10 having a front and back side, a chip 20 mounted on the front side of the substrate, the chip having an array of bond pads 30B, an array of solder balls 40A on the back side of the substrate, and an array of bond fingers 60B beside the chip and electrically connected to the bond pads of that chip. An array of electrically conductive vias (72 &

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74) penetrate from the front to the back side of the substrate and connect to the solder balls. The package also comprises a plurality of continuous electrically-conductive traces (70A-70D) for connecting a first subgroup of the bond fingers to corresponding ones of the vias. The continuous traces including at least one trace interposed between a second subgroup of the bond fingers and their corresponding vias. The APAF shows all of the elements of the claims except the electrically conductive bridge. Takahama shows (fig. 3 and abstract) shows a semiconductor device having traces (3, 4, and 5) and a conductive bridge (8) in the form of a bond wire spanning in an overhead manner across the traces. The bond wire is free of the interposing traces and has an unfilled gap between the wire and traces. With this configuration, the density of wiring can be increased ultimately increasing the level of integration of the device. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connections of the APAF by forming conductive bridges spanning over traces as taught by Takahama to increase the wiring density and ultimately improve the integration of the semiconductor device. Neither reference shows that the conductive bridge is a chip resistor. Abrams shows (fig. 1) a circuit in which crossover or conductive bridges are used to increase the packing density of the circuit (col. 2, lines 14-26). The electrically conductive bridge 26 spans in an overhead manner across interposing traces (22c & 22d) and connect one end of a trace 22b to the end of another trace 22a. There is a gap between the bridge and the interposing trace (that gap is filled with an insulating material). The bridge/crossover is made of gold wires or includes a resistor (col. 4, lines 3-6, & 25-31) and is free of interference with the electrically conductive

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trace due to the insulating material (27) between the bridge and traces. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the APAF and Takahama by employing conductive bridge structures such as chip resistors that cross over circuit traces as taught by Abrams to also increase the packing density of the circuit.

In re the limitations concerning the resistor being mounted through an SMT technology, see the explanation above for a product by process limitation.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed with respect to claims 6, 8, 11, and 13 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant primarily argues that Takahama does not cure the deficiencies of the APAF 3 by showing an electrically conductive bridge for connecting bond fingers and vias. The applicant specifically asserts that the Al wire of Takahama connects to semiconductor elements instead. The examiner believes that the combined references show all of the elements of the claims. The APAF 3 showed all of the elements of the claims except the electrically conductive bridge spanning in an overhead manner across an electrically conductive trace and having an unfilled gap. The APAF 3 already taught the bond fingers and vias. Takahama was only cited to show the bridge spanning in an overhead manner across an electrically conductive trace and having an unfilled gap. Even though the bridge of Takahama is connected to semiconductor elements, the point of the combination is to show that a conductive bridge can make an electrical connection between electrical components,

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spanning in an overhead manner across an interposing trace, and have an unfilled gap. Takahama cures the deficiencies of the APAF 3 and shows motivation for the combination. Furthermore, the abstract of Takahama is merely a broad translation of a Japanese reference. When taken broadly, the term "semiconductor elements" could also pertain to the bond fingers, vias, etc. which are well know portions of a semiconductor device. Even if the term "semiconductor elements" is viewed as the applicant interprets it, a semiconductor element is an electrically conductive component. The conductive bridge technology of Takahama, electrically connecting the two semiconductor elements (electrically conductive components), could also be applied to bond wires and vias, which just so happen to also be electrically conductive components. The combined references show all of the elements of the claims and motivation for the combination. The rejection is still proper and this action is made final.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Debiec et al. US (4,200,975).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew E Warren whose telephone number is (571) 272-1737. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and alternating Fri 9:00-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on (571) 272-1664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MEW

MEW
October 3, 2004

Tom Thomas
TOM THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800